

IN THE SPECIFICATION

Please replace paragraph [0009] on page 4 with the following paragraph:

[0009] Although advancements are being made in the technologies associated with VOIP telephony, both users and service providers are generally satisfied with the current state of the art in so far as quality of service and billing ~~is~~are concerned. This is not to say, however, that problems do not occur. For example, from time to time the terminator gateway may act as if the VOIP call is active despite the fact that the call is actually inactive and that the initiator gateway recognizes that the call has ended. This can create a significant problem in connection with billing, in as much as a substantial discrepancy can exist between the number of call minutes that the initiator gateway records as compared with the number of calling minutes that the terminator gateway records. These calls are referred to as "hung calls" or "long calls" in the art and the discrepancies that result may be measured in minutes, hours, and even days. Hung calls result in significant loss of revenues either because the discrepancy may not be resolved or because significant resources in terms of personnel and lost opportunities may be required to resolve any such discrepancies.

Please replace paragraph [0047] on page 19 with the following paragraph:

[0047] If a determination is made at action 308 that a call is not hung, then the process flow preferably feeds back to action 300 where another request for information is made by the administrator 112. In this regard, the administrator 112 preferably sends the requests for information at a predetermined rate, such as five minutes, ten minutes, etc. Preferably, the predetermined rate is variable depending on one or more other parameters, such as the processing load on the respective zone gateways 104 and/or the session controllers 202. Indeed, if the load on a given one or more of the zone gateways 104 and/or the session controllers 202 is substantially high, then the administrator 112 may reduce the frequency at which it requests the information in order to ~~lessen~~lessen the burden on the devices and improve transmitting efficiencies.